observing the prescribed acquisition procedure.

2. Wherever required, and possible transfer of technology is also taken to manufacture such equipment in India.The Transfer of Technology (ToT) has been taken for Hand Held Thermal Imagers and these are now being manufactured indigeniously by M/s Bharat Electronics Ltd. The ToT for Unattended Ground Sensors has been taken by M/s Nelco, aTata Company, without any expenditure by Government of India. Battle Field Surveillance Radar (SR) was earlier imported from Israel but now has been developed by DRDO and technology has been passed on to M/s Bharat Electronics Ltd. In such case, there is varying degrees of indigenisation achieved.

3. In all the cases of procurements for Infantry, deficiencies are being made up and older generation weapons and equipment are being replaced by modern weapons and equipments.

4. Technology for Armaments like 84mm Rocket Launcher, Automatic Grenade Launcher, Multi Grenade Launcher, Anti Material Rifle and High Resolution Binocular is also proposed to be taken from the original manufacturers from whom Arms, Ammunition and equipments have been procured after trial evaluations and found acceptable by the Armed forces.

Acquisition of F-16 Falcons

1571. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IAF pilots have recently been sent to US to fly F-16 Falcons;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Pakistan has acquired the Falcon aircraft; and

(c) if so, what efforts are being made by India to acquire the same or similar aircraft for India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Pakistan acquired F-16 Falcon aircraft during early 1980s. Indian Air Force is adequately equipped to counter any threat arising out of this acquisition.